CHAPTER VI—AGRICULTURE, CO-OPERATION AND FORESTS.

(i) Weather and Crops.

360. The district distribution of rainfall by districts according to seasons was as follows :—

District	South-west Monsoon		North-west Monsoon		Total	
	April 1950 to Sept. 1950	Average	Oct. 1950 to March 1951	Average	April 1950 to March 1951	Average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
1. Bangalore ...	15.8	21·9	11·7	9·1	27·5	31·0
2. Kolar ...	13·9	19·3	9·2	9·0	23·1	28·2
3. Tumkur ...	15·9	18·3	11·3	7·8	27·2	26·1
4. Mysore ...	17·4	19·4	8·3	9·7	25·7	29·0
5. Mandya ...	13·1	18·5	8·6	9·8	21·7	28·3
6. Hassan ...	25·9	28·7	11·4	10·0	38·3	38·7
7. Shimoga ...	60·7	49·4	11·1	7·6	71·8	57·0
8. Chikmagalur ...	75·2	68·2	11·1	10·3	86·3	73·5
9. Chitaldrug ...	13·5	15·4	7·5	6·6	21·0	22·0
State ...	28·1	27·1	10·0	8·8	38·1	35·9

361. 11. The largest total rainfall for the year (from 1st July 1950 to 30th June 1951) was 429·32 inches at Agumbe in the Shimoga District. The smallest total for the year was 6·90 inches gauged at Srirampur in Chitaldrug District. The heaviest fall in 24 hours for the year was at Agumbe in the Shimoga District where a rainfall of 15·40 inches was recorded on the 13th September 1950.

(ii) Department of Agriculture

362. The agricultural season in the State was characterised by a general failure of early rains and a more even

rainfall from July onwards. Distressing conditions prevailed in the three Kar districts of Mysore, Hassan and Mandya in the early part of the year, but the situation became a little more hopeful with the onset of a normal monsoon later.

363. Kolar, some eastern parts of Bangalore and Tumkur fared poorly. But Chitaldrug which was generally a poor rainfall area had a normal season. Crops were good in Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Mandya and Hassan District.

364. As a whole, the season was not very satisfactory.

365. *Bangalore.*—The rainfall was generally unfavourable in many taluks—very late rains necessitating postponement of agricultural operations to late July and August and heavy unseasonal rains at the time of harvest.

366. *Chikmagalur.*—The early rains either failed or were not enough for preliminary operations. Early sowings in many cases were followed by drought and necessitated re-sowings. The July and subsequent rains were more timely and adequate and the season was on the whole more favourable than in the previous years.

367. *Chitaldrug.*—The rains were generally timely and favourable and the seasonal prospects fair in almost all the taluks.

368. *Hassan.*—The rainfall in April and May was very poor and meagre. Kar crops (ragi) which was generally sown in April-May, were a failure—yields touching as low as one palla per acre. But after June, the rainfall was even, adequate and favourable and very good crops of late season varieties were harvested. The failure of early rains affected cardamom and coffee and to some extent potatoes.

369. Cotton was satisfactory throughout and the yields reached 20 maunds (560 lbs.) of Kappas per acre.

370. There was considerable increase in area under food crops due to a good season that followed July rains.

371. *Kolar.*—The agricultural season was generally unfavourable. The early rains were few and inadequate. Late season rains were meagre and tanks did not get adequate supply of water. Fodder scarcity was felt over a number of taluks in the latter part of the year.

372. *Mandya.*—Early rains failed in Mandya District and Kar crops had a poor season. But the *hain* season was very favourable both for ragi and paddy and the average yields of paddy touched 11·4 (10·2) pallas per acre.

AGRI., CO-OPN. & FORESTS

373. *Mysore.*—As in the other two Kar districts of Hassan and Mandya, the Kar season in Mysore was poor due to failure of early rains in April-May.

374. *Shimoga.*—In Shimoga, the monsoon was late. A long period of drought intervened during the monsoon which made the cultivation of paddy out of schedule and time. But rains in August were plenty and tanks received good supplies. In some places the monsoon during August was too active with overflowing streams and rivulets and washing out of transplanted seedlings.

375. *Tumkur.*—Early rains failed in the district. Preparation of lands was therefore hurried and inadequate.

Agricultural prices.

376. Except in the case of controlled foodgrains there was an upward tendency in the case of many agricultural products. There was little change in the procurement prices of controlled foodgrains although the issue prices were slightly higher than in the case of imported grains.

377. *Pulses*—The prices fluctuated widely between Rs. 38 to 60 per palla for thur, Rs. 34 to 49 per palla for horsegram unlike in the previous year.

378. *Oil-seeds*—Gingelly prices rose very high.

379. Sugar and jaggery were controlled. Jaggery which rose to Rs. 14 per maund in the previous year was brought down and pegged at Rs. 6-7-0 per maund.

380. Potatoes were unsteady as usual, the prices varying from Rs. 135 to Rs. 240 per cart load of 31 maunds of 32 pounds. Onions varied from Re. 1 to Rs. 2-8-0 per maund.

381. Cardamoms ruled high between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per maund of 28 lbs. against the peak figure of Rs. 320 and the ruling rate of Rs. 165 to Rs. 285 in the previous year.

382. *Chillies*—Chillies went up from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per maund due to crop failure in many parts of the State.

Agricultural Education.

383. As in the previous year, there were six departmental institutions for imparting agricultural education at three levels, pre-secondary, post-secondary and collegiate. Arrangements were made to acquire 90 acres of land in Tarikere, Chikmagalur District, for establishing a Kannada Agricultural School to serve the needs of Malnad. The

combined capacity of the existing four Kannada Schools remained at 100.

384. The facilities available in these schools were programmed to be utilised for training farmers' sons by a short and practical course of training.

385. The Agricultural farms that worked during the year were :— Agricultural farms.

Research Stations.

1. Central Farm, Hebbal,
2. Visvesvaraya Canal Farm, Mandya.
3. Government Experimental Farm, Babbur.
4. Paddy Breeding Station, Nagenahalli.
5. Regional Farm, Arsikere.
6. Regional Farm, Chamarajanagara.

Demonstration Farms.

1. Anandapuram Farm, Sagar.
2. Taluk Farm, Kadur.

Commercial or State Farms.

1. Malavalli Tank Bed Farm.

School Farms.—At R. K. Sala, S.K.V.D. Patasala, Somanahalli and Garudapalya Schools.

Basic Farms.—In all the districts except in Chitaldrug District.

As a measure of economy, the following farms were closed :—

1. Paddy Experimental Station, Bikli.
2. Anjanapur Demonstration Farm,
3. Bugadanahalli Taluk Farm,
4. Three Regional Farms proposed to be started under the Post-war Development Programmes.

and 5. State Farms at Dhanagur and Malavalli.

386. The strength of personnel of the farm continued to be inadequate. The active Carbon Unit which was functioning as a separate Unit under the technical guidance of the Agricultural Chemist was abolished owing to lack of demand for active carbon. Due to the drying up of the Krishnarajasagar Reservoir, the farm lost about 65 acres of standing cane and other valuable crops. Visvesvaraya Canal Farm, Mandya.

AGRI., CO-OPN. & FORESTS

387. Owing to failure of the Visvesvaraya Canal irrigation system, the final cropped area was only 284 acres.

Area under cultivation in Visvesvaraya Canal Farm.

388. The principal crops raised on the farm were sugarcane over 48½ acres, ragi over 97½ acres, and paddy over 69½ acres. The average yields per acre showed fluctuations for irrigated paddy. It ranged from 8 to 16 pallas. For Kar ragi the yield per acre was 8·98 pallas. In addition to the usual crops grown on the farm, several new crops and crop varieties were introduced from other countries and Indian States. Among the Chief introductions 6 varieties of soyabean from Canada, lupiues, vetches and flovers from Italy; lemon oil grass from Malabar. Among the crop varieties recently introduced, 120 varieties of paddy from different parts of India were under test. Some 40 varieties showed great promise, 4 scented paddies were procured from Bengal and Gwalior. Twenty-nine varieties of ragi were introduced from other States.

Plant introduction.

389. To test the possibilities and potentialities of new crops, varieties and strains in the different soil-climate crop regions of the State, a large number of plant introductions were made from other States in India and other countries during the past five years.

Cotton.

390. The main lines of work that were pursued on cotton crop were :—

1. Acclimatisation of Egyptian and Sea Island cottons,
2. Improvement of long staple Mysore American cottons or Doddahatti,

and 3. Improvement of medium staple cottons of Sannahatti.

391. Egyptian cottons :—Due to the practical drying up of the great reservoir at Krishnarajsagar last year, cultivation of cotton under irrigated conditions was not possible at V.C. farm.

392. Trials were continued to determine the most suitable period for sowing Egyptian, Sea Island and upland cottons in the black cotton soils of the northern District where medium and short staple cotton were sown in hingar rains.

393. Upland cottons :—Lack of irrigation facilities hampered also the programme for upland or Mysore American (M.A.) cottons at V.C. Farm.

394. At Babbur the trials of M.A.V., M A. IX, M.A.X, M.A. XI and Co. 4 (A Coimbatore strain) were continued for the third year both during May and November 1950, While M.A.V. maintained its superiority in point of yield. two selections M.A.X and M.A. XI were proved earlier by 2-3 weeks.

395. In addition to routine analysis of soil, fertilisers, plant materials involving more than 400 samples, investigations and trials were continued in respect of optimum placement of phosphatic fertilisers for ragi and sugarcane, phosphatic manuring of green manure crops, nitrogen and phosphate applications to paddy in increasing doses, liming paddy soils, role of trace elements and their influences on crop yields, etc. Scientific work.

396. The seed multiplication and distribution scheme which was the first post-war scheme to be launched by the department for multiplication and distribution of paddy seeds was, with the transfer of the Grow More Food Campaign to the Commissioner for Food Production, transferred to the control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

397. A total quantity of 34,392 pallas of seed paddy, 4,985 pallas of seed ragi and 2,399 pallas of seed jowar in addition to 1,032 pallas of Bijapur jowar was procured during the year for distribution which entrusted to the Multipurpose Co-operative Societies.

(iii) Sericulture.

398. The prices of cocoons varied from Rs. 1-9-0 per lb. in October 1950 to as high a price as Rs, 3-4-0 in June 1951. The filature silk prices varied between Rs. 42 and Rs. 54. Conditions were unstable and therefore affected the reeling industry and more particularly filatures. Eighty thousand four hundred and eighty-three pounds of foreign silk valued at Rs. 34·22 lakhs were imported and distributed especially for the benefit of the Silk Handloom Weavers by the department through recognised corporate bodies and the Mysore Provincial Silk Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Ltd., which was established in Bangalore in September 1950. The imported silk was released at steady prices irrespective of wide market fluctuations and this benefited the handloom weavers and the consumers. Market Conditions of Silk Industry.